



U.S. Department of Justice

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For Immediate Release:

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EVENT : Sentencing

DEFENDANT : Richard Henderson, 51, of Highland Park

Highland Park man sentenced to 19 years in prison

A 51 year old Highland Park man has been sentenced to 19 years in prison after being found guilty by a jury of being a felon in possession of a firearm, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today.

Richard Henderson, a/k/a Simuel Lamont Jackson, was sentenced on March 28, 2005, by U.S. District Judge Gerald E. Rosen in federal court in Detroit.

This case is one of more than 250 that have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative that provides for the referral of gun cases by local prosecutors in those instances in which federal law provides for a substantially higher sentence.

On June 11, 2003, officers of the Detroit Police Department observed Defendant drinking a 40 ounce bottle of beer on the sidewalk in public view in the area of Woodrow Wilson and Highland Streets, in Detroit. As the officers approached Defendant, they noticed the outline of a handgun in the Defendant's right front pants pocket. As the officers got out of the scout car Defendant, without provocation, dropped to the ground and began to yell "don't beat me." Defendant struggled with the officers as they attempted to detain him. During the struggle Defendant removed a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun from his pocket. An officer kicked the firearm under the scout car for safety. The firearm was loaded with one live round.

Mr. Henderson was sentenced as an Armed Career Criminal, under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, because he had been previously convicted of two serious felony

offenses and one serious drug offense.

“The U.S. Attorney’s Office will continue to prosecute firearm cases referred from local law enforcement agencies and prosecutor’s offices under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in an attempt to deter individuals who unlawfully possess and use firearms. The Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative is an important part of the strategy this office will employ to deter crime and violence involving the use of firearms,” Mr. Murphy said.

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the efforts of special agents of the ATF and officers of the Detroit Police Department for their investigation in this case. Mr. Murphy also commended Assistant United States Attorney Susan Gillooly, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who prosecuted Mr. Henderson.

For questions regarding the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative in the Eastern District of Michigan, please contact Peggy Goodwin, The Goodwin Co., at (248) 543-3891.